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#02

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CONFIDENTIAL

ALIAS

DUKE

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JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
WRITER

TOM REILLY
ARTIST

JORDIE BELLAIRE
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

COVERS
TOM REILLY
RICARDO LOPEZ ORTIZ
TYLER BOSS
& JASON WORDIE
ACO
NICK DRAGOTTA
& PATRICIO DELPECHE
RAMON VILLALOBOS

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
& JONATHAN MANNING
EDITORS

ANDRES JUAREZ
LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN

JILLIAN CRAB
PRODUCTION

GI JOE

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AMERICAN HERO WANTED FOR MURDER. ON THE RUN.

DAMN, SIXTEEN DEAD.

WHAT DID YOU GET YOURSELF INTO ***NOW,*** CONRAD?

BETTER YOU THAN ME.

I NEED SOME COFFEE.

MANNY'S MEAN MACHINES

MEW!

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FACULTY
HEREBY CONFERS ON

LANCE J. STEINBERG

THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN

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SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

NOTHING WRONG WITH DAY-OLD...

FASTCAR

WHY DON'T YOU POUR *ME* ONE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CLUTCH?

AH!

WHAT THE--?!

CONRAD?

DANG, BRO. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU WITH MORE THAN A FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ***DOING*** HERE?

THE M.P.S WILL LOOK FOR PEOPLE FROM MY ARMY DAYS FIRST, BUT YOU AND I GO BACK WAY FURTHER THAN THAT.

WIN

CLUTCH, YOU OKAY?

I HEARD A SCREAM...

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BABE.

JUST AN OL' BUDDY NAMED ***DUKE*** STOPPED BY.

WHEN ME AND THIS GUY WERE KIDS, I'D ***BUILD*** 'EM, AND HE'D ***CRASH*** 'EM. BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE WENT ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.

DUKE, THIS IS...

THIS... IS...

IT'S UH... HM.

I SEE YOU STILL HAVE A WAY WITH THE LADIES.

CHICKS DIG THE CARS.

AND YOU STILL KNOW TO BUILD 'EM...

SMACK

UGH...

DANG, BUDDY. YOU HURT?

MAYBE FROM THE **BULLETS** OR THE **GLASS** FROM JUMPING OUT A WINDOW.

OH, SO NOTHING **WEIRD** THEN...

C'MON. LET'S GET YOU INTO THE SHOP AND GIVE YOU A TUNE-UP.

GIVE ME THE RUN-DOWN.

SO, YOU SAW A JET... TURN INTO A GIANT ROBOT?

STEEL

YOU BELIEVE ME?

NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

BUT I KNOW YOU ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU SAW ***SOMETHING.***

MAYBE THIS BAD BOY DOCTOR BURKHART GAVE YOU IS THE ***KEY.***

THAT'S PART OF WHY I CAME TO ***YOU.***

ANY IDEA WHAT IT IS?

IT'S LIKE A LOJACK YOU'D PUT IN YOUR CAR. SORT OF.

BUT WAY MORE ADVANCED...AND SNEAKY TO BE HONEST.

KLIK

LET'S SAY I MADE A BUNCH OF CARS, BUT I INSTALLED STEALTH TRACKERS IN THEM THAT LET ME TRACK ITS USE AND MOVEMENT. AND ***THEN*** SOLD THEM TO PEOPLE WITHOUT TELLING THEM.

WHICH WOULD BE ***SUPER*** ILLEGAL.

BUT IF SHE GAVE IT TO YOU...SO YOU CAN FIND WHO IS USING HER TECH...

AH...

BOEEP

...HERE WE GO.

BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED.

THAT IS WHERE YOU NEED TO GO, GOOD BUDDY.

BEEP.

HM.

"FAMILY NEXT?"

NOT A CHANCE.
NOT EVEN YOUR BABY BRO?
I CAN'T INVOLVE HIM. THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS.
GOING TO YOU WAS ALREADY TOO MUCH OF A RISK.
CLUNK
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK TO **HAWK?** TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED?
HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME BEFORE, AND I DOUBT HE'D BELIEVE ME NOW.
I NEVER TOOK YOU FOR THE KIND OF GUY TO HAVE A CRISIS OF FAITH, MAN.
I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AND GET ANSWERS.
CHK CHAK
DO YOU HEAR THAT?

LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!

MOVE!

NOT MY GIRL!

KA-BOOM

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

LET'S GO!

I'LL DRIVE.

HELL NO. YOU USED TO CRASH THEM, REMEMBER?!

SURF'S UP, BROS.

COME OUT AND CATCH THE WAVES!

VROOOM KRTSH

OKAY, OKAY, I LIKE YOUR STYLE.

BUT I CAN PLAY, TOO.

VVVVVVVVSH

MANNY'S

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

BANG

TSH!

I'M NOT THE BEST DRIVER, BUT THIS GUY'S AIM *SUCKS.*

I DON'T THINK HE'S TRYING TO *HIT* US!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HE'S HERDING US... INTO...

"A TRAP!"

BANG

BANG

TRSH BOOM

TRSH BOOM

CRASH

C'MON...

COME BACK TO BED, SHERRY...

NOW YOU REMEMBER HER NAME...

MY PARTNER AND I NEEDED TO GET YOU AWAY FROM ANY CIVILIANS, WHERE NO ONE WOULD SEE US TAKE YOU IN.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING ME IN?

DUKE. YOU'RE HURT. THERE IS NO POINT IN YOU GETTING *MORE* HURT.

STAND DOWN.

THAT'S AN ORDER.

I DON'T *TAKE* ORDERS ANYMORE!

FINE, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY THIS.

LET ME SHOW YOU A MOVE AN OLD FRIEND TAUGHT ME...

KRAK

TAKES MORE THAN A...

SPIT.

FANCY KICK TO KEEP ME DOWN.

I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, KID.

POW

WHOMP
WHOMP
WHOMP

COLONEL HAWK, SIR... WE GOT HIM...

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

US

WHOMP
WHOMP
WHOMP

YANK

CLANK

WHERE... WHERE ARE WE?

WHERE ELSE DO WE THROW PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

"THE PIT."

I THOUGHT THE PIT WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN THE EIGHTIES?

IT WAS. NOW WE USE IT AS A SAFE HOUSE FOR HIGH-RISK PRISONERS BEFORE THEY CAN BE TRANSPORTED.

HERE YOU GO, BOYS. HOME SWEET HOME.

WHY AM I HERE?!

CLANG

AIDING AND ABETTING A KNOWN FUGITIVE, BRO.

CLANG

I'VE HEARD OF YOU BOTH.

CRAIG "ROCK 'N ROLL" MCCONNEL.

AND LONZO "STALKER" WILKINSON.

WE ALL HAVE REPUTATIONS, DON'T WE?

THIS IS FOR THE BEST, DUKE. YOU CAN'T BE ON THE RUN. YOU WANT TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS, YOU NEED TO TRUST THE SYSTEM.

THE *SYSTEM* DIDN'T TRUST *ME!* WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE ANYTHING FROM YOU?!

FASCINATING. WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.

YOU AND I HAVE COMMON... *GOALS.*

YOU WANT FREEDOM.

I WANT FREEDOM.

PERHAPS WE CAN COME TO AN ARRANGEMENT?

TO BE CONTINUED!

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
[redacted]
GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

Howdy everyone,

Editor Jonathan here! Welcome back to DUKE! And a huge thanks to you all for reading DUKE #1. We could not be more thrilled with the response we've received so far, and are beyond psyched for you all to see Josh, Tom, Jordie, and Rus' talents on full display in our debut G.I. JOE series.

As you've seen, Duke's has really been put through the ringer. But, nothing the social graces of his ol' pal Clutch can't remedy! And the way Tom and Jordie draw his junkyard… just saying, I'd hang out there. Even cooler, though, has got to be the first (of what will be many!) appearance of iconic G.I. JOE vehicles, with the freaking V.A.M.P. There are so many classic vehicles we love, so you know we won't be able to help ourselves.

Even even cooler, though? How about the first appearance of Baroness?! What is she doing in THE PIT? And what could she possibly have in mind for Duke? You'll just have to tune in next month. And you're not going to want to miss issue #3, lest you miss the arrival of one of the baddest bads the G.I. JOE ever crossed.

Speaking of mind-blowing first appearances, we have ANOTHER amazing debut series now available: COBRA COMMANDER #1! Go pick it up if you haven't already. I mean, you do like [REDACTED], don't you? (You'll see who I mean.) The Energon Universe continues to expand, and we're still just at the beginning.

Alrighty, now let's get to what we're normally here for on this page: letters! If you've been reading TRANSFORMERS and VOID RIVALS (of course you have!), then you know this is the page where we'll be featuring letters from YOU! That's right, send in your burning questions to the email above, and you just might end up right here. Josh and I will start answering your letters in issue #3, so hit us with the good stuff! Just remember: be nice and have fun with it!

The year, and Duke's journey, are just starting. Let's roll out!

Jonathan Manning

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ON SALE FEBRUARY 14

ON SALE FEBRUARY 21

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WHEN IS IT SAFE TO FALL IN LOVE?

Clementine

BOOK TWO

FROM THE EISNER & IGNATZ AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF "ON A SUNBEAM"
TILLIE WALDEN
"I COULDN'T PUT THIS BOOK DOWN."
-VICTORIA YING (HUNGRY GHOST)
Clementine
BOOK TWO

"ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING AND IMMERSIVE READS OF THE YEAR."
JEFF LEMIRE, CREATOR OF SWEET TOOTH

THE SEQUEL TO TILLIE WALDEN'S EISNER-NOMINATED CLEMENTINE BOOK ONE IS AVAILABLE NOW!

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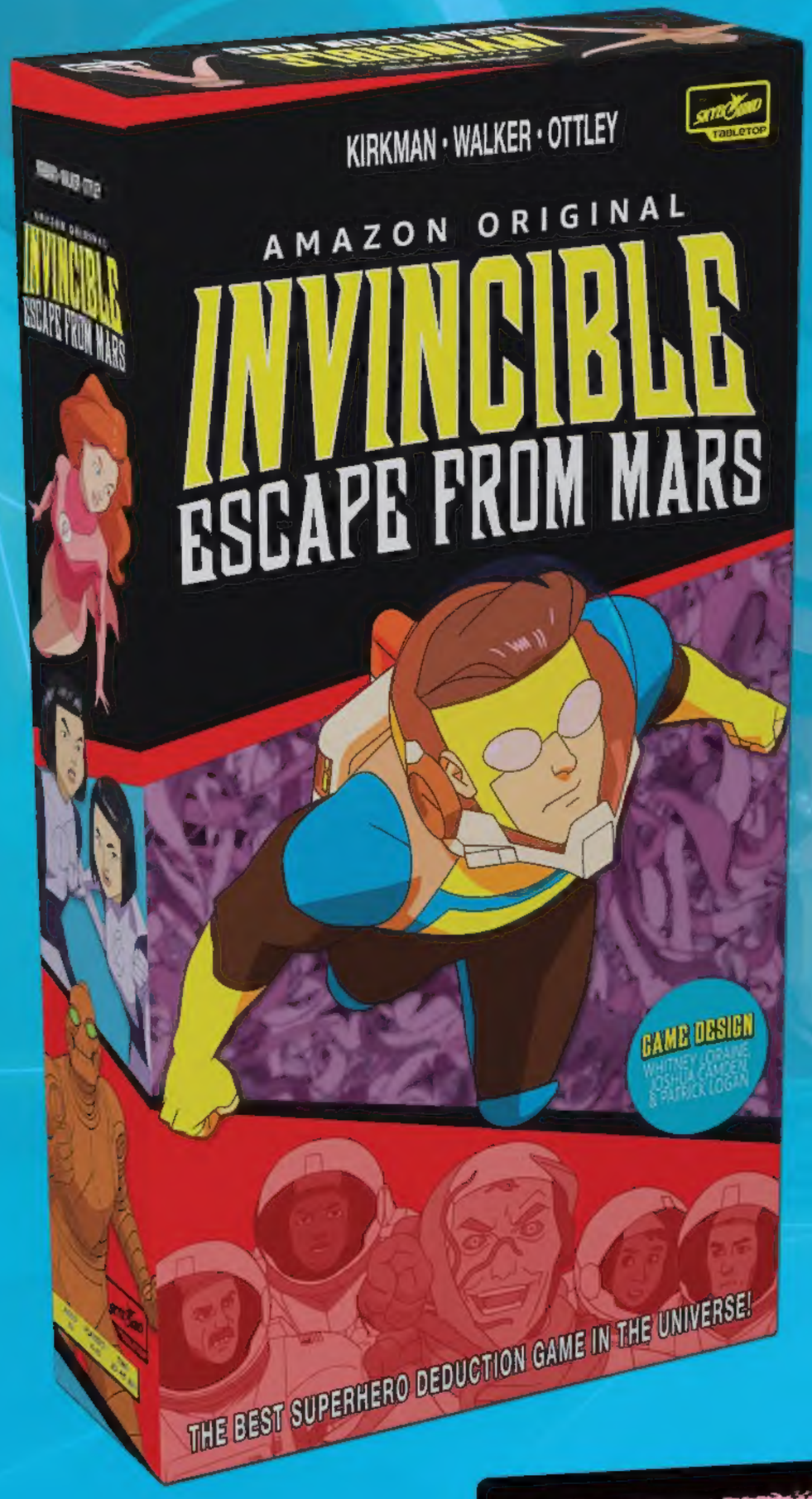

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